

REVIEW OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SEASON

2006 – NORTH CAROLINA ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION

Acreage: North Carolina producers harvested 39,000 acres of sweet potatoes in 2006, up 4,000 acres from a year earlier. Total harvested acres for the United States was 86,800, a decrease of 1.98 percent from 2005.

Yield: The average yield per acre for North Carolina in 2006 was 180 cwt., an increase of 10 cwt. from 2005. The average yield per acre for the United States was 187 cwt., 9 cwt. above the 2005 average.

Production: North Carolina's production was 7.02 million cwt. in 2006, compared to 5.95 million cwt. in 2005. United States production of 16.2 million cwt. was 0.5 million cwt. above 2005. North Carolina accounted for 43 percent of the total U.S. production.

Source: Agricultural Statistics Board, NASS, USDA

GROWING

Transplanting and related activities got underway about the second week in May. For the week ending May 14, about 10 percent of the crop was transplanted compared to 17 percent for 2005, and 12 percent for the average of the previous five years. For the week ending July 09, 98 percent of the crop was transplanted compared to 94 percent for 2005, and 97 percent for the previous five-year average.

Transplanting Progress (Percent, %)			
Week Ending	2006	2005	Previous 5 Years
May 14	10	17	12
May 22	20	23	20
May 28	36	31	30
June 04	63	55	48
June 11	70	62	59
June 18	77	72	72
June 25	92	84	86
July 02	93	90	93
July 09	98	94	97

Source: North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Agricultural Statistics Service

HARVESTING

Harvesting began in September and progressed at about the same pace as the previous year. The harvest concluded at the end of November. For the week ending October 15, about 53 percent of the crop had been harvested compared to 57 percent for the previous five years.

Harvesting Progress (Percent, %)			
Week Ending	2006	2005	Previous 5 Years
September 17	10	-	13
September 24	18	15	19
October 01	30	20	28
October 08	44	42	42
October 15	53	58	57
October 22	61	62	67
October 29	77	76	77
November 05	92	85	84
November 12	97	92	91

Source: North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Agricultural Statistics Service

MARKETING

Packers and shippers marketed sweet potatoes in 40 pound cartons, 5 and 10 pound cartons and polybags.

MONTHLY AVERAGE F.O.B. PRICE COMPARISON FOR 2002-2006					
Shipping Point Prices - U.S. No. 1, 40 Lb. Cartons					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
August	-	20.36	-	-	-
September	10.50	19.29	-	13.50	14.50
October	10.50	17.72	14.50	13.50	14.50
November	10.50	16.50	14.50	13.50	14.50
December	12.50	16.50	14.50	13.50	14.50
January	12.50	16.50	13.75	13.50	14.50
February	13.25	16.50	13.75	13.50	14.50
March	14.50	16.50	13.50	13.50	14.50
April	14.75	15.94	13.50	13.88	14.80
May	16.00	15.94	13.50	14.50	15.13
June	17.06	15.50	13.50	14.50	15.50
July	18.39	15.50	13.50	14.50	15.50
August	-	15.50	13.50	14.50	15.50
September	-	15.50	13.50	14.50	15.67
October	-	14.50	13.50	14.50	-
November	-	14.50	13.50	-	-

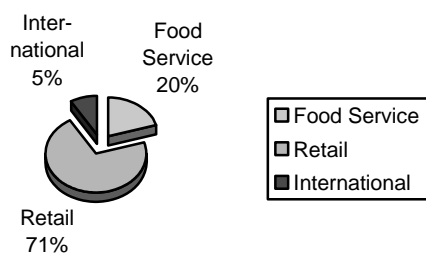
N.C. PROCESSOR PRICES: Base prices paid by processors for the 2006 crop ranged between \$4.75-\$7.00.

FRESH MARKET TRUCK SHIPMENTS BY MONTH FOR 1998-2006

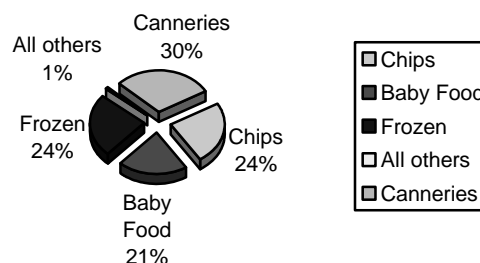
1,000 carton units

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
August	17	10	9	13	-	156	-	-	14
September	330	169	341	134	-	341	6	1	383
October	500	494	524	439	104	486	238	203	623
November	1,140	1,004	1,001	1,100	1,114	1,019	1,158	891	1,434
December	617	559	689	667	798	588	642	917	811
January	509	478	374	384	477	497	445	572	654
February	393	379	410	454	489	503	513	671	713
March	644	325	459	342	568	573	738	726	900
April	385	509	513	447	566	484	551	820	684
May	469	289	386	439	424	431	503	580	686
June	371	304	431	355	444	397	547	482	671
July	421	301	423	400	327	402	405	493	618
August	367	238	344	443	174	347	531	471	610
September	148	56	311	465	-	421	536	220	285
October	-	-	-	558	-	398	378	29	29
November	-	-	-	316	-	25	295	-	3
TOTAL	6,311	5,116	6,293	7,256	5,486	7,068	7,486	7,076	9,118

2006 Fresh Market Breakdown for NC Sweet Potatoes



2006 Breakdown of Total Pounds Processed for NC Sweet Potatoes



The total count of 40 pound cartons collected was approximately 9,117,589 cartons. Of that total, 1,855,887 cartons went to food service, 6,484,255 to retail, and 777,447 to international (see pie graph above left). During that same period, an additional 86,496,978 pounds of sweet potatoes were shipped to various processing facilities. Of those total pounds, 25,680,178 pounds went to canneries, 20,930,452 went to chip processors, 18,036,080 went to baby food, 21,099,168 went to frozen food processors, and 751,100 pounds went to “other” processors (see pie graph above right).